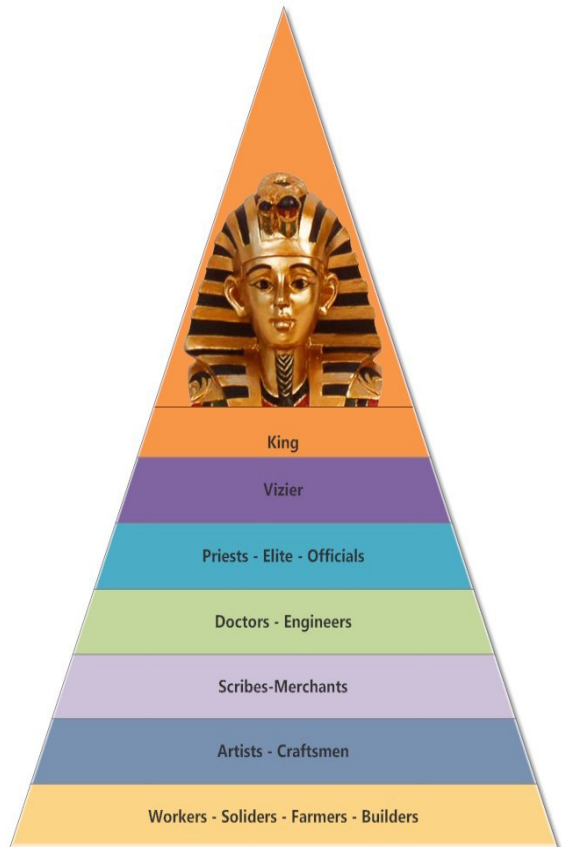


2.6 Art, Social Structure and Education in Ancient Egypt

Egyptian Social Hierarchy



hierarchystructure.com

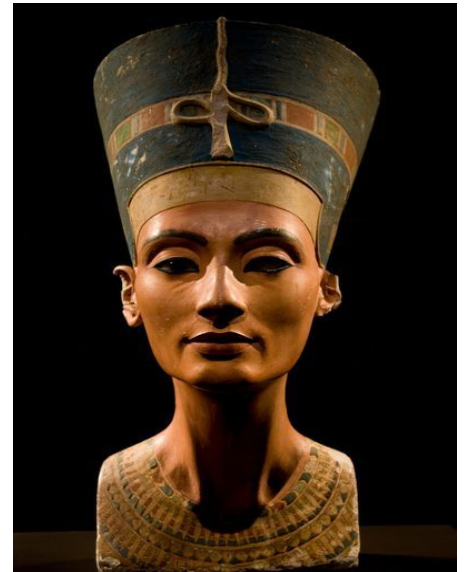


Continuity and conventions in Egyptian Art

- Conservatism was one of three key factors that shaped Egyptian art.
- 2nd is that all art was produced for religious purposes
- 3rd is that the Pharaoh was the chief patron and subject of the arts

Sculptures

- Most majestic works of art
- Egyptian statues generally looked straight ahead and were not engaged in any activity and have no emotion

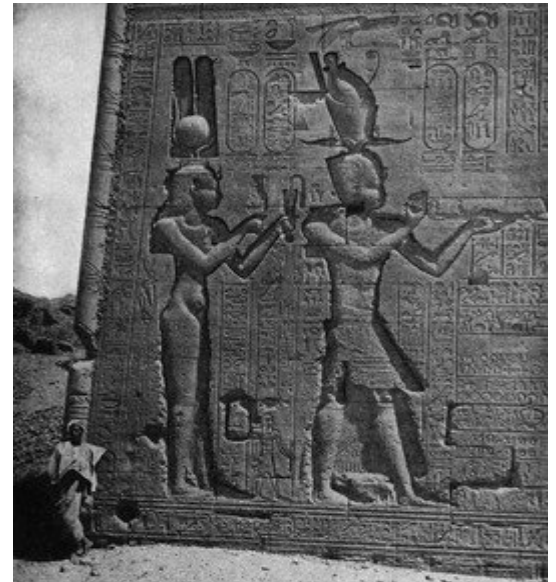


Carved Reliefs and Paintings

- Artistic forms found in the tombs of Pharaohs
- Both serve a similar purpose: to convey to the Gods the character of the deceased, or to illustrate the activities to be enjoyed in the afterlife
- Carved reliefs are pictures that are cut into stone

Carved Reliefs and Paintings

- Paintings were second best, and were usually done in tombs where poor rock surfaces made relief work difficult
- In some cases paintings were selected instead of reliefs because they were less costly and time consuming





Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

Agriculture

The Nile dictated everyone's life

At the beginning of the year when the Nile flooded, dams and canals had to be maintained and repaired

They had to retain as much of this valuable water as possible

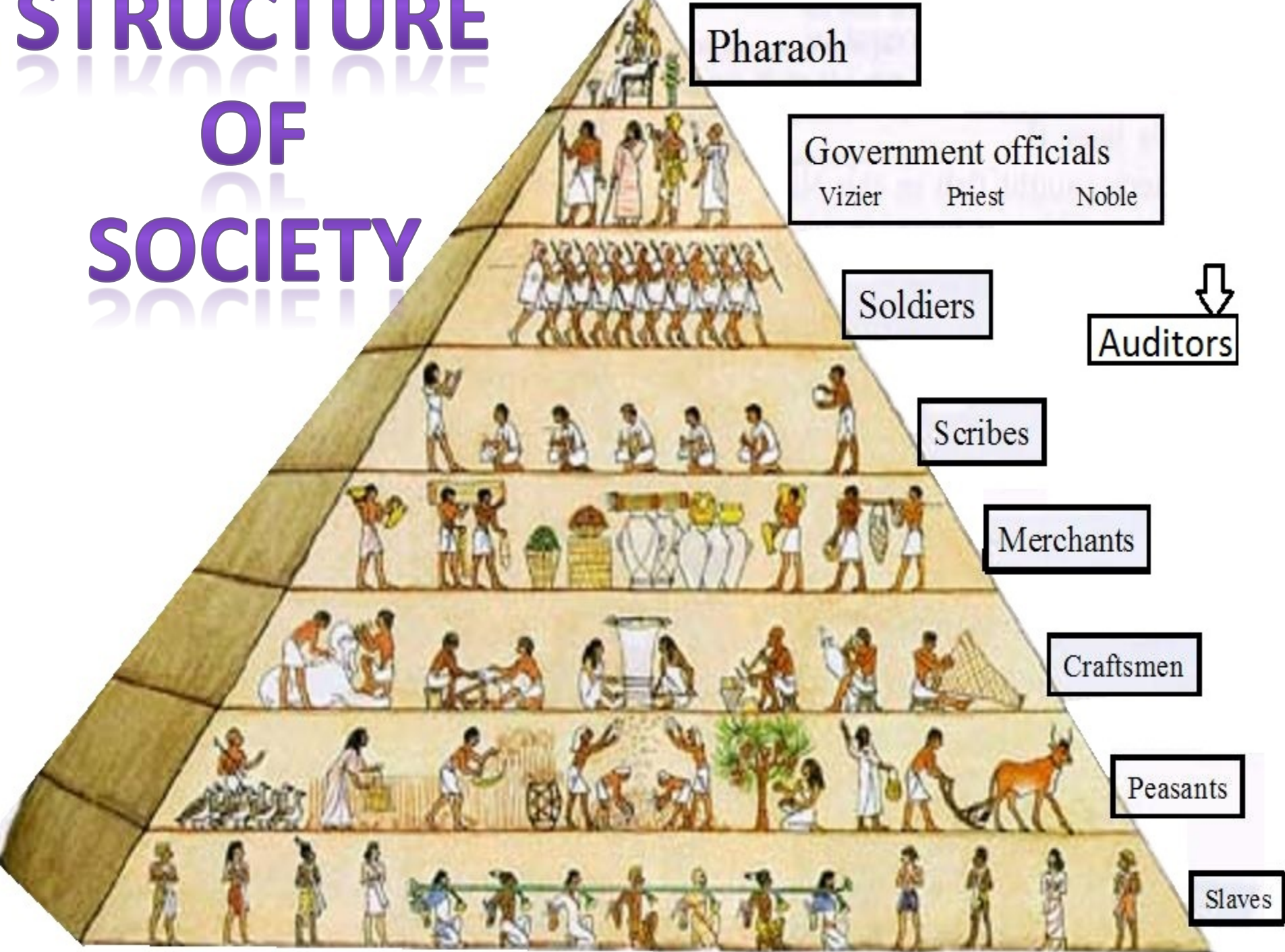
Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

Agriculture

The river left behind fertile soil, and planting did not take long because the soil was fertile and wet

The harvest would end up in the landowner's kitchen, the town market, or given to the laborers as payment

STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY



Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Family

The home was a refuge and gathering place for the family

A place to wash the dust away, eat and sleep

Children were fed and dressed simply and allowed few extravagances

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Family

Mothers or elder sisters cared for the children until they were 4-6, when they were sent off to be educated

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

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Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women

Roles coming from what is depicted in the tombs

Women were generally well treated and enjoyed considerable legal rights compared with women in other ancient civilizations

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women

In theory, women had same legal rights as men

- To own land and property

- The right to seek divorce

- The right to seek a court case or serve as a witness

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women

These rights allowed women to be economically independent

Women's primary role was in the domestic life

The fact that females have yellow skin in paintings show that women led a sheltered life

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women



Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women

Women did not hold important titles (except for Cleopatra, Hatshepsut, and Queen Nefertiti), had little political power, were usually illiterate, and were barred from intellectual and government life

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women

Women took great pride in managing the home

Women faced few restrictions. When going out to the market, women were not required to wear any type of coverings

At home, the baking of bread and brewing of beer (both for consumption and offerings) occupied their time

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Women

A woman's main function in society was to bear and raise children

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Men

Husband was the head of the family

Men were not restricted to the number of wives they could have but economics usually dictated that one man only took one wife

The man of the household was the labourer, craftsperson, or the official.

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

The Role of Men

Father passed these roles onto his sons

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

Clothing of the Commoner

Labourers wore as little as possible



The women wore long, close fitting robes made of a light linen that was easy to clean and was

good protection from the heat

Social Structure: Daily Life in Egypt

Clothing and Jewelry of the Upper Classes